

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W
----- 079254

R 121018Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2253

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAMAKO 3454

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ML

SUBJ: LOME SUMMIT

REFERENCE LOME 1997

1. SEPTEMBER 9 EDITION L'ESSOR, OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER, CARRIED REMARKS BY MILITARY COMMITTEE VICE PRESIDENT BABA DIARRA FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO BAMAKO AFTER ATTENDING SUMMIT IN LOME SEPTEMBER 6-7 INVOLVING NIGER, UPPER VOLTA, TOGO AND MALI. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT MEETING STRENGTHENED FAITH IN REGIONAL COOPERATION. HE ALSO NOTED THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE OF SUMMIT, WHICH WAS TO DISCUSS WAYS OF IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE THRU ROAD AND PORT SERVICES, WAS SUCCESSFUL.

2. L'ESSOR ALSO CARRIED JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH INCLUDED
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PRAISE FOR PRESIDENTS KOUNTCHE AND EYADEMA FOR AID IN

SETTLING BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA.

3. COMMENT: THERE WAS NOTABLE LACK OF ANY MENTION OF SEKOU TOURE'S EARLIER ATTEMPT TO MEDIATE MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT COM-MUNIQUE REFERRED TO FACT THAT IT WAS AT LOME AND UNDER AEGIS OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA THAT MEDIATION OF MALI-UPPER VOLTA DISPUTE BEGAN.

4. WHILE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE EXPLAINS PURPOSE OF MEETING IN POSITIVE TERMS - "REGIONAL COOPERATION", WE BELIEVE PRINCIPAL MALIAN OBJECTIVE WAS DESIRE TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST AS SOLE PORTS OF ENTRY FOR MALI. IMPROVING LATERAL INLAND ROAD NETWORK, AND INCREASING USE OF LOME AS PORT OF ENTRY TO THE THREE HINTERLAND STATES, WOULD MAKE THEM FEEL LESS VULNERABLE TO WHIMS OF SENEGAL AND OTHER COASTAL STATES. AT PRESENT, BASIC TENET OF MALIAN FOREIGN POLICY IS TO PRESERVE AND EXPAND ACCESS TO THE SEA WHICH, IN TURN, WILL REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST. AS USUAL, LOCAL GOM SOURCES ARE CLOSEMOUTHED AND UNWILLING TO GO BEYOND COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE.
MCGUIRE

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